Mining Zones in Andhra Pradesh

817. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has identified 12 exclusive mining zones near Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the above declaration and the subsequent extraction of minerals would lead to excessive exploitation of Mineral resources;

(c) whether the States, which are on a fast track to export minerals are advised to maintain desired restraint;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the information received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh, 15 areas have been identified around Hyderabad city on the outskirts of Ranga Reddy district for declaration as mining zones.

(b) Mining activity in the country is required to be done in a systematic and scientific manner as per mining, environmental and safety legislations, and mining of minerals depends on various parameters including reserves and market demand.

(c) to (e) Export of minerals is guided by the Export-Import (EXIM) Policy notified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry from time to time.

Gold reserves

818. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate gold reserves in the country;

(b) whether the Geological Survey of India has been asked to find the reserves available in seven States; and

(c) if so, the progress made in that respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has reported that as per the National Mineral Inventory, the total reserves of gold ore (primary) in the country as on 1.4.2005 are estimated at 19.25 million tonnes with a metal content of 85 tonnes.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been carrying out exploration for gold in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(c) The progress made in Gold exploration by GSI during the last three years (Field Season 2004-05 to 2006-07) is as under: